

## **Assessment of safety culture in Radiotherapy departments in Greece and pilot implementation of an Incident Learning System**

**Introduction:** Patient safety has been a major concern for the medical community as a large number of patients suffer from medical malpractice every year. The modern approach of safety involves the assessment of attitudes and behaviors of individuals and the safety culture that governs an organization as a whole. Radiation therapy is one of the safest medical disciplines but due to its complexity it poses risks at every stage. International organizations and professional societies have been sounding the alarm and recommend the reinforcement of a positive safety culture and the implementation of Incident Learning Systems for optimizing safety in healthcare. In our country safety culture in radiotherapy departments has not been adequately studied and an Incident Learning System has not been developed yet as risk management tool.

**Objective:** The present study aims to investigate the attitudes and behaviors of radiotherapy staff regarding patient safety and to implement a pilot Incident Learning System.

**Material and Methods:** The structured questionnaire "Survey on Patient Safety" by US Agency for Health Research and Quality (AHRQ) will be used to explore safety culture. The questionnaire will be distributed to healthcare professionals of radiotherapy departments around the country. Moreover an Incident Learning system will be created and staff will be encouraged to complete it anonymously.

**Expected results:** The present study will highlight the current status of safety culture in radiotherapy departments and identify the factors that affect it. Also, through the Incident Learning System errors, near misses and incidents that may occur during a course of treatment will be accumulated.

**Conclusions:** Research results can be used at any level of leadership or organization to improve patient safety practices and conditions.